

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

executing boot-time code stored in a non-volatile store ~~associated with~~ embedded within a peripheral device, wherein executing the boot-time code includes actions of:

reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a configuration space of the peripheral device ~~based on the identification numbers.~~

Claim 2 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 3 (original) The method of claim 2, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 4 (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the signature is written to a scratchpad register in the configuration space of the peripheral device.

Claim 5 (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

executing device driver code associated with ~~[[a]]~~ the particular device driver,
wherein executing the device driver code includes actions of:

~~reading the signature from the configuration space of the
peripheral device;~~

determining whether the signature has been written to the
configuration space ~~denotes that the device driver may be loaded for the
peripheral device;~~ and

in response to a determination that the signature ~~denotes that the
device driver may be loaded for the peripheral device~~ has been written to
the configuration space, ~~loading~~ enabling the device driver.

Claims 6-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) A computer program product comprising:

a first tangible computer-readable medium containing first functional descriptive
material that, when executed by a computer, directs the computer to perform actions that
include:

reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral
device may be used with a particular device driver; and

in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be
used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a configuration
space of the peripheral device ~~based on the identification numbers~~.

Claim 13 (original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the
identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification
number.

Claim 14 (original) The computer program product of claim 13, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 15 (original) The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the first computer-readable medium is a non-volatile store associated with the peripheral device.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 12, further comprising:

a second tangible computer-readable medium containing second functional descriptive material associated with a device driver, wherein the computer's executing the second functional descriptive material directs the computer to perform actions that include:

~~reading the signature from the configuration space of the peripheral device;~~

determining whether the signature has been written to the configuration space ~~denotes that the device driver may be loaded for the peripheral device;~~ and

in response to a determination that the signature ~~denotes that the device driver may be loaded for the peripheral device~~ has been written to the configuration space, loading enabling the device driver.

Claims 17-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended) A peripheral device comprising:

at least one non-volatile store;

an interface adapted to provide connectivity between the at least one non-volatile store and a computer system; and

a set of instructions within the at least one non-volatile store, wherein the set of instructions are adapted to be executed by the computer system so as to direct the computer system to perform actions that include:

reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a configuration space of the peripheral device ~~based on the identification numbers.~~

Claim 24 (original) The peripheral device of claim 23, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 25 (original) The peripheral device of claim 24, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 26 (original) The peripheral device of claim 23, wherein the signature is written to a scratchpad register in the configuration space of the peripheral device.

Claim 27 (currently amended) A data processing system comprising:

at least one processor;

at least one memory;

a peripheral device having a non-volatile store;

a first set of instructions in the non-volatile store, wherein the at least one processor executes the first set of instructions to perform actions of:

reading identification numbers from the peripheral device;

determining, from the identification numbers, if the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver; and

in response to a determination that the peripheral device may be used with a particular device driver, writing a signature to a configuration space of the peripheral device ~~based on the identification numbers.~~

a second set of instructions in the at least one memory, wherein the at least one processor executes the second set of instructions to perform actions of:

~~reading the signature from the configuration space of the peripheral device;~~

determining whether the signature has been written to the configuration space ~~denotes that the device driver may be loaded for the peripheral device;~~ and

in response to a determination that the signature ~~denotes that the device driver may be loaded for the peripheral device~~ has been written to the configuration space, ~~loading~~ enabling the device driver.

Claim 28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (original) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the identification numbers include a vendor identification number and a device identification number.

Claim 30 (original) The data processing system of claim 29, wherein the identification numbers include a subsystem vendor identification number and a subsystem device identification number.

Claim 31 (currently amended) The data processing system of claim 27, wherein the signature is ~~read from~~ written to a scratchpad register in the configuration space of the peripheral device.